

In the Drawings:

There are no changes to the supplied drawings.

REMARKS

This United States Utility Patent Application is the national stage of International Application PCT/EP2003/010069 filed September 10, 2003, which claims priority from prior filed German National Application Serial No. 102 41 961.2 filed September 10, 2002. This Preliminary Amendment deletes multiple dependencies from the claims, and adds section headings in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.77. This application claims priority from said prior filed German application. A certified copy of the German priority document has been received by the International Bureau. Amendments were not filed under Article 19, there are no annexes to the International Search Report. Declaration and Assignment documents, including a Power of Attorney will be filed at a later date.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative by telephone at (206) 381-3300 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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